











## THE QUEEN AND HER PRIVATE SECRETARY.

(From the Saturday Review.)

A SERVANT of the Crown, holding a place of very considerable importance, the functions of which he discharged with great success, has just passed away, and yet the English public knew literally nothing of him or of his office. General Grey was not only the son of a Prime Minister and the heir presumptive to an Earldom, but he was a man of masculine mind, of great readiness and sense, and of highly independent character. Nevertheless, he was contented to be the Queen's Private Secretary, and he found ample scope for his energies and satisfaction for his ambition in his employment. Nothing, perhaps, could illustrate more forcibly the real working of some of the chief institutions of the country than the satisfaction which such a man found in holding the office assigned to him. The Private Secretary of the Queen has to lead a very laborious life, for the simple reason that the life of the Sovereign he serves is necessarily very laborious. He has the reward of doing really good work, and of doing it under the eyes of a person who can appreciate what he does. He has also the reward of exercising an important but very indirect influence over the course of public affairs. But it is a great mistake to suppose that the Queen's Private Secretary has power in the shape of commanding patronage, or of influencing the mind of the Sovereign on questions where the head of the Ministry is brought into direct contact with the Queen. What amount of influence he has will indeed depend not only on the man himself, but on the accidental circumstances in which he may find himself. The Queen has an enormous amount of daily business to go through. In her early years she had Lord Melbourne to advise her in the conduct of this business, and then for many years she had the happiness of being aided by the supreme good sense and the untiring industry of Prince Albert. When there is attached to a Queen a person who has this special claim to guide her, or a recognised habit of guiding her, the Private Secretary acts under the guidance of a person who is really a private secretary of a higher kind. But in later years the Queen has done her vast business unaided, and General Grey has had to shape the form in which her wishes were expressed; and necessarily this became a very important task, for the expression of thought is always in some degree a limitation of the thought itself. The Private Secretary soon forgets all party feeling, for the Sovereign is of no party; and he soon gets to concentrate his whole mind on carrying out the views and defending the position of his mistress, and he cannot job; but he is the vehicle through whom the Sovereign conducts a vast amount of most multifarious and grave business; and when there is no one to interpret the wishes of the Sovereign to him, and to be a kind of higher functionary in his own department, he has to carry on day by day the routine of his business, and he has all the influence which a man must have who has to clothe in language that which the head of the State wishes or requires to be done.

The whole gravity of these duties, and the whole interest which is attached to the efficient discharge of them, lies in the continuous unceasing attention which the King or Queen of England is supposed to give to public affairs. The life of the Queen is necessarily a hard-working life, to an extent which would astonish most of her subjects who had never reflected how public business is carried on. The Queen is the head of every department in the State. Everything that is done in every department is made known to her, and her pleasure taken upon it. Much of the departmental business is, of course, merely routine, and the Queen has not really to keep a watch over it. But every important question arising in every department has to be brought before her, and in some departments the Sovereign has always taken an especial interest. Everything connected with the troops and with the fleet is watched with the utmost vigilance by the Sovereign, and it is a part of the traditions of English Royalty not to relax this vigilance. Then, again, each Sovereign in turn will, from the east of his or her mind, find a special interest in some particular department, and be thus led to give extra attention to it; and it is notorious that the Queen's unbounded sympathy for the poor induces her to watch over the administration of the Poor Laws with the very greatest zeal and care. The labour which the Sovereign goes through in this way is enormous, because it is so unremitting, and because it is directed into so many channels. But to undergo this labour is a necessary part of the position of Royalty, and to shirk this labour would be to sink into the position of a cipher. What gives the Sovereign a real political power in the State is this constant discharge of current business. The Sovereign cannot affect, except in a very slight degree, the decision of great questions, or the tide of opinion, or the choice of the men who from time to time have the control of public affairs. But the Sovereign has an influence over those who are in office, which is derived from a vast fund of accumulated experience, and from the necessity under which each Minister finds himself of submitting his actions and conduct in the sphere of his departmental business to a person having this experience. A young Sovereign must of course be guided, as the Queen was succeeded by Lord Melbourne and then by her husband; but years soon brought knowledge and wisdom to a person that outlives every Minister in succession. The Queen now knows probably more of the proper course of public business, and is more thoroughly acquainted with the history and traditions of every department, than any other person in England. The value of such a knowledge consists partly in the exhibition of a standard of fitness which each Minister of a department of public business is reluctant not to satisfy, and partly in the preservation of a continuity in each department of its own political life. The Sovereign gains also from the constant supervision of the minutiae of business an opportunity of judging of the characters of public men, and of reconciling stumps, and utilising them, which is of great use in practical government. But, then, all this involves very hard work, and as most of this work is done in writing, the Secretary has to write a great deal, to write with force and readiness, and with a mind of apt expression. To be a good manager of apt expression, the Sovereign is, therefore, a Secretary to the Government, a difficult thing, and a man like General Grey, who has filled the post with indisputable success, has contributed a most important item to the great machine of government.

The Sovereign has always a very large amount of hard work to do every day, and now that the Queen has to do it herself, and has the experience and ability to do it, she must labour very hard. This constant devotion to the public service and to the maintenance of her inherited position has of course its drawbacks. A Queen is only

a crowned woman, and the strength of women is limited by nature. An hereditary monarchy is to be taken with all its advantages and disadvantages, and if the Sovereign has delicate health, as the Queen often has, then the work belonging to her office must exercise its natural physical effect. The nation takes its Sovereign much as husbands and wives take each other—for better and worse. The individual life rolls on, and much is lost and much is gained as the days go by. It is only an idiotic sort of loyalty to pretend to believe that the Sovereign has not to live the life of an individual human being, and to affect to think a Queen must always be the same. The Queen, as she has often given it to be understood, and has expressly recorded in her book, feels the physical fatigue and oppression of work, and of shows and sights and the life of cities. She gives her whole powers to the performance of that business in the highest departments of public life, which her striking natural aptitude, her constant willingness to learn, and her immense experience enable her to carry on with a success that is of the greatest benefit to the nation. This business absorbs her strength. It is not to be supposed that she is of so feeble and sentimental a character that the mere waywardness of grief for her great loss would induce her to withdraw from the view of her subjects. But she naturally feels that to carry on her Government in the best way, so far as she can determine the mode in which it is carried on, is her primary duty, and she has not strength or spirits for much more. This appears to us to be the simple truth as to what is called her seclusion from social life.

There must, however, be some sort of limit to the work of a Sovereign, and it can never be desirable that the Sovereign should work too hard. As the Queen spends her whole strength in the service of her people, she must be allowed the greatest latitude in the mode in which she lays out her life. But the peculiarity of the life of a Sovereign is that it is scarcely possible for the occupant of the throne not to do one thing without neglecting to do some other thing. This may, perhaps, be avoided under the happiest circumstances, and in the flower and perfect time of life. But as years go on each Sovereign in turn will have to leave some things undone in order that other things may be done. No part of a Sovereign's work can surpass in value that part which the Queen performs so admirably—the part of superintending the machinery of Government. But it is also true that the participation of the Sovereign in the social life of the people is very good work too in its way. Royalty, in order to do good, must exist as a living force, and in order to exist in this way it must be seen, must bring itself home to the general mind, and become a part of the daily life of men. The English Sovereign is dear to the people of England as the embodiment of English history, and the living visible expression of ancient law and government. The monarchy reposes on the continuance of this sentiment quite as much as on the utility of the functions which the Sovereign discharges in the active working of the scheme of government. What pleases and in a sense ennobles the people is the thought that the state and grandeur of royalty is something that belongs to them. In a sense the Queen belongs to the nation, as the nation to the Queen. When the Queen's carriage goes by, it is not, in the eyes of the poor, like the passing of the carriage of a rich and great man. It is the carriage and the grandeur and the parade of every one who looks at it. It is this sentiment that gives English Royalty its power and charm, and it would be much to be regretted if it waned at all from being never or very seldom called forth. How far direct effort to elicit and perpetuate it should be made must be left to the judgment of the reigning Sovereign; although it can never be wise to neglect too much this sphere of Royal activity. But, on the other hand, it should be remembered that there are other spheres of this activity, and that the supervision of departmental business is of primary importance, and that it has never, probably, been better performed than it has been in recent years when General Grey, as Private Secretary, has been recording the views and wishes of the Queen.

## DUAL GOVERNMENT IN AUSTRIA.

(From the Pall Mall Gazette.)

WHEN the Emperor of the French made his happy announcement of the claims of nationalities a few years back, he made a most disastrous discovery for Austria. No empire of the same extent probably ever included as many peoples differing in race, language, traditions, and to a certain extent in religion. In the old days of what was called Paternal Government, these differences were not so prominently displayed, nor was there any real field for their exposure. The Press was limited at that time to the announcement of the decrees of the State and the names of the persons recently decorated by the Emperor. Public meetings there were none, and in the life of the salons no subjects were more tacitly but strictly tabooed than such as related to politics.

When the first shock of Liberalism was felt through the Continent in 1848, Bach conceived the idea of opposing Catholicism to the march of Liberal ideas, and making the Church the barrier against progress. The failure was complete, and was prompt also; and he was succeeded by Goluchowski, whose notion was a sort of clerico-feudalistic State, with less centralisation than heretofore, and apparently more local liberty. This also proved a failure; and now came Schmerling with a number of the best intentions on the score of constitutional government, but ill seconded by the party—the Germans—for whose interest he was chiefly concerned, and bewildered besides by the enormous difficulties of the task before him. Belcredi followed, with the reputation of a man of advanced Liberal ideas, and a thorough acquaintance with the aspirations and tendencies of the times; but Belcredi was too strong a monarchist for the parties who had raised him to power, and who ceased to support him when they discovered that he could not be made the tool of their intentions. Then came Sadov and Koniggratz, and Baron Beust. Beust was now the ruling power of the State. It was now a question of the existence of the monarchy. The utter defeat of the army was reflected in the complete prostration of the people. On every side it was asked, "What vice is it in our system, what defect in our rulers, or what shortcoming in the heads of the State, by which we alone of all the nations of Europe reap nothing but disaster?" The troops that on the parade-ground were the envy of foreign generals; the battalions whose march-past is the sanguine of solidity, rhythm, and regularity, the arms whose equipment and management these led the type of a cavalry—why are they now so bad? to-day in all the pride and ordered, broken, to return to-morrow dislodged our generals, defeated? How is it that our sovereigns, so defeated?

The Sovereign has always a very large amount of hard work to do every day, and now that the Queen has to do it herself, and has the experience and ability to do it, she must labour very hard. This constant devotion to the public service and to the maintenance of her inherited position has of course its drawbacks. A Queen is only

by foreign journalists? Why does no solid gleam of success shine upon our arms? What is this element of ruin that seems never to forsake us? Where is it? Why is it? And how can it be got rid of?" It was to a country thus distracted by doubt and torn by dissension that Baron Beust came, first as a refugee, then a ruler. Little choice was left him as to a policy; to save the monarchy he must throw himself on the Hungarians, and nothing short of "dualism" would satisfy them. Of all the separate nationalities of the empire they presented the most compact phalanx; they had language, traditions, and customs all their own. They had their laws, evidences of a high condition of civilisation, and a history rich in noble achievements, for they had been a nation before, and it was their pride to remember it. Though numerically not a sixth of the whole empire, they made very haughty terms for continuing to link their fortunes with a fallen State; for, to be it borne in mind, nothing would have suited the policy of Bismarck than a separate and independent Hungary, nor could Russia have seen any change that would have pleased her more. Hungary bargained for equality: she would accept no less. The very title of the empire should include her name, and the style, Austr.-Hungarian Empire. She was only to be garrisoned by troops of her own nationality. She was to have her own deliberative assembly, her own Ministers, her own flag; there was, in fact, nothing left to demand but her independence, which, of course she had in all but mere name. And now began that experiment of dual government which cost us so much to eradicate with regard to Ireland, and whose experiences have by no means left favourable impressions behind. Great adroitness on Beust's part, a consummate knowledge of mankind, and a wonderful adaptiveness to circumstances have steered him hitherto through many difficulties—admirably aided by the Emperor, it must be said, who, if nothing of a statesman, has accepted the new regime of constitutionalism with the most thorough loyalty and a firmness which, for an Austrian prince bred and trained in very different traditions, cannot be too highly applauded.

So far, therefore, as dualism is on its trial, nothing discouraging has yet occurred. The difficulties lie with the other nationalities of the empire, who, hitherto content to be called Austrians, consigned as Austrians, and taxed as Austrians, are now stimulated by the example of Hungary to follow her steps and demand to be recognised as nationalities. Of course there is no analogy between their case and that of Hungary, nor could there be great difficulty in dealing with their pretensions, unsupported as they are by all precedent in history, were it not for party who call themselves Federalists, and whose dream is an Austria fashioned after the manner of Switzerland. These men, basing their operations on these national discontents, have never ceased to exaggerate them. Acting on their religious prejudices through their priests, on their commercial interests through the journals, and stimulating their political ambition by Russian emissaries they have at length achieved an amount of success that is pregnant with the gravest dangers for the empire. To such an extent has this spirit of dissension spread that the Polish, Slovac, Istrian, and Dalmatian deputies have now declared that they will no longer sit in the Parliament of the empire, and "shall hold themselves ready to justify their conduct to their respective Diets." These forty-two in number—strengthened by the Tyrolese deputies, and the Bohemians, who retired some time ago, leave the actual Parliament with scarcely more than one hundred members, the lowest number which can legalise a parliament; and it would be difficult to elicit and perpetuate it should be made to be lost to the judgment of the reigning Sovereign; although it can never be wise to neglect too much this sphere of Royal activity. But, on the other hand, it should be remembered that there are other spheres of this activity, and that the supervision of departmental business is of primary importance, and that it has never, probably, been better performed than it has been in recent years when General Grey, as Private Secretary, has been recording the views and wishes of the Queen.

## HISTORICAL MANUSCRIPTS' COMMISSION.

(From the Times.)

THE first report of the Royal Commission on Historical Manuscripts furnishes abundant justification for the appointment of that body, showing as it does "how important" work needed to be done, and how efficiently it can be performed. The public records are now collected together, and the substance of their contents is being made known; it remained to bring to the light the historic treasures which are scattered about the kingdom in private custody. The possessors of these valuable papers were it said as became them. With admirable public spirit, in less than a year from the issue of the Commission, no less than 180 persons and heads of institutions expressed their readiness to have the contents of their collections made known. The Commissioners determined, in the first instance, merely to undertake a preliminary examination of the collections with the aid of competent gentlemen who have visited various parts of the United Kingdom for the purpose of inspecting such as were not forwarded to the Public Record-office for examination in London. We cannot here give an entire list of the valuable collections brought to light, a notice of some of the papers at least will be acceptable. In England the inspection was intrusted to Mr. H. T. Riley and Mr. A. J. Horwood, barristers at law; several possessors of collections offered them for examination with the request that Mr. Joseph Stevenson should be the inspector of their papers, a request which was complied with. Thirteen chests of papers belonging to the Hutton collection (Lord Winchelsea's) have been sorted, and an inventory is given; they were in a state of chaotic confusion, but contain documents of inestimable value. The collection of the Earl of Macclesfield is important; a specimen is given of a proposed calendar of George Stepeny's letters; many letters of Prior are of interest, and Cressett's correspondence while engaged in negotiations at several German Courts will throw light upon the history of Europe about the close of the seventeenth century. Lord Macclesfield's papers supply many gaps in the national collections in Public Record-office; with permission, copies of these papers will be made and placed among the semi-official documents in the office, commonly called "Transcripts." Lord de Tabley's collection is very valuable. In the Phillips' collection at Montacute-house, Somerset, was found under the unpronouncing words, "Law papers," a collection of documents relating to the Gunpowder Plot; they have probably not been seen since they were tied up in 1612; permission was liberally given to have transcripts made and deposited in the Public

Record Office for general use. There are, in the collection at this fine old mansion, many valuable and interesting letters and papers. The Duke of Bedford has offered access to his collection at Woburn Abbey, and Viscount Midleton kindly sent an inventory of his interesting papers, 1627-1728. Mr. T. E. P. Lefroy has sent a catalogue of his documents comprising about 1700 letters from men of high station between 1672 and 1689. The papers of Mr. Almack of Melford, Suffolk, comprise many relating to great historical families of Scotland and Ireland; his catalogue closes with Penn's first charter of Liberties founding Pennsylvania, April 25, 1682. Interesting reports are given on the Kimbolton papers, and the collection of the Marquis of Lothian, at Blickling-hall. Lord Mosley forwarded for inspection a chest of papers—news-letters of the 17th century, very interesting; the library at Mosley contains a most important collection of manuscripts relating to English and Welsh history. Mr. Luttrell threw open for inspection the muniments at Dunster Castle which are full of information for local history; a careful catalogue of them was made by the celebrated William Prynne, while "detained there by Mr. Bradshaw and his companions at Whitehall," a captive for eight months. Mr. Horwood has made an interesting report on Sir T. Winneton's papers, and those of Mr. Tollemache; he notes among them King Alfred's translation of Orosius, a sermon "at Paules in London," 1383; a letter to a lady written by Charles II. while in exile, the letter described by Mr. Horwood as "perfect in composition and stately grace;" and many interesting letters of the 16th and 17th centuries. The official papers of Lord Coventry, Lord Keeper, to which the Commissioners have been allowed access will probably disclose much interesting information. The valuable collection of the Earl of St. Germans, at Port Eliot, contains several letters from the historian, Edward Gibbon, throwing light on his Parliamentary career. Sir J. S. Trevelyan's includes a large number of letters of the 17th century, which were discovered behind the wainscot of a room at Trevelyan when it was under repair a few years ago; the letters relate to public affairs. The manuscript-room at Belvoir has been thrown open, and the Earl of Zetland's collection, comprising papers that may be serviceable in any future history of the Rebellion of 1645. Mr. Stevenson reports on Lord Herries' collection of manuscripts at Everingham park, and describes a magnificent Antiphoner written on vellum in the 15th century for York Minster. Mr. Stevenson reports also on the Shrewsbury papers, which are worthy of a careful examination: King Henry VII. details to Sir Gilbert Talbot, deputy governor of Calais, Perkin Warbeck's expulsion from Scotland, his wanderings and his arrival in Ireland. These papers include several royal letters from Henry VII. and Henry VIII., Charles II. and James II., and important letters from Cardinal Wolsey. The papers at the College of St. Mary Oscott, Birmingham, are of interest. There is an account of ancient London, written in 1725, and the journal of a student in the English College at Rome, 1773-1779. In the library at Ushaw College, near Durham, are several interesting papers, and among them several holographs from Alexander Pope, the poet, and a narrative by John Portescu and Helen, his wife, respecting the Gunpowder Plot. Among the papers in the possession of Mr. Francis Whigewra of Burton Manor, near Stafford, is a very curious account of the journey of twelve English students from St. Omer to Seville. It extends from the 7th of August to the 14th of November, 1622. While at sea they were taken prisoners—first by a Dutch ship and afterwards by an Algarve pirate, which carried them to Algiers, where they were sold as slaves. Perhaps the most attractive of Mr. Stevenson's reports refers to the manuscripts at Buckie, on the coast of the Moray Firth. Among these are seventy-two original letters of Mary of Scotland, two of them entirely in the Queen's own writing, the rest in cipher. Mr. Riley, to whom was assigned the task of visiting the corporations which had signified their desire to have their manuscripts and papers examined, has made very valuable and careful reports relative to these collections.

There is a grand collection, comparatively unknown, preserved in the House of Lords, which was brought to the notice of the Commissioners at their first meeting, and which appeared to them of such importance that they requested three of their body, with their secretary, to form themselves into a committee for the purpose of inspecting the documents, the existence of which had been so unexpectedly announced to them; and that inspection was made accordingly in company with Sir John George Shaw Lefevre, Clerk of the Parliaments. These documents are deposited in twelve rooms on the basement story of the offices of the House of Lords; about 30,000 have been examined and arranged and removed upstairs, under the superintendence of Sir J. G. S. Lefevre; they occupied a very small part of one room. They are documents which have been from time to time laid before the House. Among them are papers of the King, taken at the battle of Naseby. The Commissioners found, among other papers, the original letter, wholly in the handwriting of Charles I., addressed to the House of Lords on the 11th May, 1641, recommending that the Earl of Strafford should be imprisoned for life, rather than be executed; "although he (the King) had satisfied the justice of the kingdom by the passing of the Bill of Attainder against the earl." Some of the alterations in the letter are curious, as showing the King's desire to have Strafford by an exercise of his Royal prerogative of pardon, without asking a favour of the Parliament. The letter in question will be remembered as the one which contains the remarkable postscript, "If he must die, it were a charity to reprove him until Saturday." These words seem to have been added, and the alterations above alluded to made, some time after the letter was written. It seems that the Peer offered to return his Majesty's hands the letter itself which he had sent, but he was pleased to say, "My lords, what I have written to you I shall be content to be registered by you in your House. In it you will see my mind. I know you will use it to my honour." This important letter has been lost for years, and only just recovered from the miscellaneous mass of papers of which we speak. The Commissioners also saw the original petition of Laud, Archbishop of Canterbury, in his own handwriting, while a prisoner in the Tower of London. He had been required to give the presentation of the petition to the Queen, and she had refused to receive it. He had then approached her, and said in a loud and domineering tone, "It is our pleasure that you shall reside within this palace, with our family." I replied that it would be quite impossible for me to do so; that being as yet unable to speak the language, and the gates being shut every evening, I would feel like an unhappy prisoner in the palace. "Where do you go every evening?"

—A SIAMENE INTERIOR.—  
(The English Governess at the Siamese Court in the Atlantic Monthly.)  
In the Oriental tongues this progressive king was eminently proficient; and toward priests, preachers, and teachers, of all creeds, sects, and sciences, an enlightened exemplar of tolerance. It was likewise his peculiar vanity to pass for an accomplished English scholar, and to this end he maintained in his palace at Bangkok a private printing establishment, with fonts of English type, which as may be perceived presently, he was at no loss to keep in "copy." Perhaps it was the printing-office which suggested, quite naturally, an English governess for the "elite" of his wives and concubines, and their offspring, in number amply adequate to the constitution of a royal school, and in material most attractively fresh and romantic. Happy thought! Wherefore, behold me, just after sunset on a pleasant day in April, 1862, on the threshold of the outer court of the Grand Palace, accompanied by my own brave little boy, and escorted by a companion. A flood of light sweeping through the spacious Hall of Audience displayed a throng of noblemen in waiting. None turned a glance, or seemingly a thought, on us, and my child being tired and hungry, I urged Captain B.—to present us without delay. At once we mounted the marble steps, and entered the brilliant hall unannounced. Ranged on the carpet were many prostrate, mute, and motionless forms, over whose heads to step was a temptation as drolly natural as it was dangerous. His Majesty spied us quickly, and advanced abruptly, petulantly screaming, "Who? who? who?" Captain B.—(who, by-the-bye, is a titled nobleman of Siam) introduced me as the English governess, engaged for the Royal family. The king shook hands with us, and immediately proceeded to march up and down in quiet step, putting one foot before the other with mathematical precision, as if under drill. "Forearmed," my friend whispered that I should prepare myself for a sharp cross-questioning as to my age, my husband, children, and other strictly personal concerns. Suddenly his Majesty, having cogitated sufficiently in his peculiar manner, with one long final stride halted in front of us, and, pointing straight at me with his forefinger, asked, "How old shall you be?" Scarcely able to repress a smile at a proceeding so absurd, and with my sex's distaste for so serious a question, I demurely replied, "One hundred and fifty years old." Had I made myself much younger he might have ridiculed or assailed me; but now he stood surprised and embarrassed for a few moments, then resumed his quick march, and at last, beginning to perceive the jest, coughed, laughed again, and then in a high, sharp key asked, "In what year were you born?" Instantly I struck a mental balance, and answered, as gravely as I could, "In 1788." At this point the expression of his Majesty's face was indescribably critical. Captain B.—slipped behind a pillar to laugh; but the king only coughed, with a significant emphasis that startled me, and addressed a few words to his prostrate couriers, who smiled at the carpet,—all except the prime minister, who turned to look at me. But his Majesty was not to be baffled so; again he marched with vigour, and then returned to the attack with elan. "How many years shall you be married?" "For several years, your Majesty." He fell into a brown study; then suddenly rushed at me, and demanded triumphantly:—"Ha! How many grandchildren shall you now have? Ha! ha! ha! How many? Ha! ha! ha!" Of course we all laughed with him; but the general hilarity admitted of a variety of constructions. Then suddenly he seized my hand, and dragged me, nolens volens, my little Louis holding fast by my skirt, through several sombre passages along which crouched duennas, shrivelled and grotesque, and many youthful women, covering their faces, as if blinded by the splendour of the passing Majesty. At length he stopped before one of the many-curtained recesses, and, drawing aside the hangings, disclosed a lovely, child-like form. He stooped and took her hand, (she naively hiding her face,) and placing it in mine, said: "This is my wife, the Lady T. She desires to be educated in English. She is as renowned for her talents

ing?" he demanded. "Not anywhere, your Majesty. I am a stranger here." "Then why shall object to the gates being shut?" "I do not clearly know," I replied, with a secret shudder at the idea of sleeping within those walls; "but I am afraid I could not do it. I beg your Majesty will remember that in your gracious letter you promised me a residence adjoining the royal palace, not within it."

He turned and looked at me, his face growing almost purple with rage. "I do not know I have promised. I do not know former condition. I do not know anything but you are my servant, and it is our pleasure that you must live in this palace, and you shall obey." Those last three words he fairly screamed. I trembled in every limb, and for some time knew not how to reply. At length I ventured to say: "I am prepared to obey all your Majesty's commands within the obligation of my duty to your family, but beyond that I can promise no obedience." "You shall live in palace," he roared; "you shall live in palace. I will give women slaves to wait on you. You shall commence royal school in this pavilion on Thursday next. That is the best day for such undertaking, in the estimation of our astrologers." With that he addressed, in a frantic manner, commands unintelligible to me, to some of the old women about the pavilion. My boy began to cry; tears filled my own eyes; and the princess's sister, so kind about an hour before, cast fierce glances at us both. I turned and led my child toward the oval brass door. We heard voices behind us crying, "Man! Man!" I turned again, and saw the king beckoning and calling to me. I bowed to him profoundly, but passed through the brass door. The prime minister's sister rushed after us in a distraction of excitement, tugging at my cloak, shaking her finger in my face, and crying, "My! my! my!" (Bad, bad!) All the way back in the boat, and on the street, to the very door, of my apartments, instead of her joined, "Good morning, sir." I had nothing but "My! my!" But kings who are not mad, have their sober second thoughts like other rational people. His Golden-footed Majesty respectfully reported him of his arbitrary "can-tankerousness," and in due time my ultimatum was accepted. About a year later, when I had been permanently installed in my double office of teacher and scribe, I was one day busy with a letter from His Majesty to the Earl of Clarendon, and finding that any attempt at partial correction would but render his meaning more ambiguous, and impair the striking originality of his style, I had abandoned the effort, and set about copying it with literal exactness, only venturing to alter here and there a word such as "I" has to with willful pleasure to write in reply to your Lordship's well-wishing letter," &c. Whilst I was thus evolving from the depths of my inner consciousness a satisfactory solution to this conundrum in King's English, his Majesty's private secretary lolled in the sunniest corner of the room, stretching his dusky limbs and heavily nodding in an ecstasy of ease-falling. Poor Phra-Alack! I never knew him to be otherwise than sleepy, and his sleep was always stolen. For his Majesty was the most capricious of kings as to his working mood—busy when the average man should be sleeping, sleeping while letters, papers, despatches, messengers, mule-boats waited. More than once had we been aroused at dead of night by noisy tented slaves, and dragged in hot haste and consternation to the Hall of Audience, only to find that his Majesty was not at his last gasp, as we had feared, but simply bothered to find in Webster's Dictionary some word that was to be found nowhere but in his own fertile brain; or, perhaps in excited chase of the classical term for some trifle he was on the point of ordering from London, and that word was sure to be a stranger to my brain. Before my arrival in Bangkok it had been his not uncommon practice to send for a missionary at midnight, have him beguiled or abducted from his bed, and conveyed by boat to the palace, some miles up the river, to inquire if it would not be more elegant to write him, instead of obscure or gloomily dark, rather than not clearly apparent. And if the wretched man should venture to declare his honest preference for the ordinary over the extraordinary form of expression, he was forthwith dismissed with irony, arrogance, or even insult, and without a word of apology for the rude invasion of his rest. One night, a little after twelve o'clock, as he was on the point of going to bed, like any plain citizen of regular habits, his Majesty fell to thinking how most accurately to render into English the troublesome Siamese word *phi*, which admits of a variety of interpretations. After puzzling over it for more than an hour, getting himself possessed, with the word as with the devil it stands for, and all to no purpose, he ordered one of his lesser state slaves to be summoned and dispatched with all speed for the British consul. That functionary, inspired with lively alarm by so startling a summons, dressed himself with unceremonious color, and hurried to the palace, conjecturing on the way all imaginary possibilities of politics and diplomacy, revolution or invasion. To his vexation, not less than his surprise, he found the king seated in disarray, with a Siamese-English vocabulary, mentally divided between "deuce" and "devil," in the choice of an equivalent. His preposterous Majesty gravely laid the case before the consul, who, though inwardly chaffing at what he termed "the confounded coolness" of the situation, had no choice but to decide with grace, and go back to bed with philosophy. No wonder, then, that Phra-Alack experienced an access of gratitude for the privilege of napping for two hours in the sunshine. "Man! Kha!" he murmured drowsily. "I hope that in the Chat-Nah I shall be a freed man." "I hope so sincerely, Phra-Alack," said I. "I hope you'll be an Englishman or an American, for then you'll be sure to be independent." It was impossible not to pity the poor old man, so stiff and continual stooping to his task, and so subdued!—able not only to be called at any hour of the day or night, but to be threatened, cuffed, kicked, beaten on the head, every way abused and insulted, and the next moment to be taken into favour, confidence, bosom-friendship, even as his Majesty's most mightiest. Alack for Phra-Alack! though usually he bore with equal patience his greater and his lesser ills, there were occasions that sharply tried his meekness, when his weak and gaunt nature revolted, and he rushed to a snug little home of his own, about forty yards from the Grand Palace, there to match a respite of rest and refreshment in the society of his young and lately wedded wife. Then the king would awake and send for him, whereupon he would be suddenly ill, or not at home, strategically hiding himself under a mountain of bedclothes, and detailing Mrs. Phra-Alack to reconnoitre and report. He had tried this primitive trick so often that its very staleness infuriated the king, who invariably sent efforts to seize his trembling accomplice and lock her up in a dismal cell, as a hostage for the scribe's appearance. At dusk the poor fellow would emerge, contrite and terrified, and prostrate himself at the gate of the

palace. "Then his Majesty (who, having spic posted in every quarter of the town, knew as well as Phra-Alack himself what the illness or the absence signified) leisurely strolled forth, and, finding the patient on the threshold, flew into a genuine rage, and prescribed 'decapitation on the spot,' and "sixty lashes on the bare back," both in the same breath. And while the attendants flew right and left—one for the blade, another for the thong—the King, still raging, seized whatever came most handy, and laboured his bosom-friend on the head and shoulders. Having thus summarily relieved his mind, he despatched the royal secretary for his ink-horn and paprus, and began initing letters, orders, appointments, before scymtar or lashed (which were ever tenderly slow on these occasions) had made its appearance. Perhaps in the very thick of his dictating, he would remember the comical accompaniment, and order his people "to release her, and let her go."

## DECLINE OF AMERICAN COMMERCE.

The following is the special Message presented by the Speaker from President Grant on the subject of American Commerce:

"To the Senate and House of Representatives—

"In the Executive Message of the 6th December, 1869, to Congress the importance of taking steps to revere our decaying merchant marine was urged, and a special Message promised at a future day, during the present session, recommending, more specifically, plans to accomplish this result. Now that the Committee of the House of Representatives intrusted with the labour of ascertaining the cause of the decline of American commerce has completed its work and submitted a report to the legislative branch of the Government, I deem this a fitting time to execute that promise. The very able, calm, and exhaustive report of the Committee points out the grave wrongs which have produced the decline in our commerce. It is a national humiliation that we are now compelled to pay from twenty to thirty millions of dollars annually exclusive of passage money, which we should share with other nations, to foreigners for doing the work which should be done by American owned and American manned vessels. This is a direct drain upon the resources of the country of just so much money, equal to casting it into the sea, so far as the nation is concerned. A nation of the vast and ever increasing interior resources of the United States, extending as it does, from one to the other of the great oceans of the world, with an industrious, intelligent and energetic population, must one day possess its full share of the commerce of these oceans, no matter what the cost. Delay will only increase this cost and enhance the difficulty of attaining the result. I therefore put in an earnest plea for early action in this matter in a way to secure the interests of American commerce. The advanced period of this year, and the fact that no contract for shipbuilding will probably be entered into until this question is settled by Congress, and the further fact that if there should be much delay all large vessels contracted for this year will fail of completion before winter sets in, and will therefore be carried over for another year, induces me to request your early consideration of this subject. I regard it of such grave importance, affecting every interest of the country to so great an extent, that any method which will gain the end will secure a rich national blessing. Building ships and navigating them and utilising vast capital at home, this business employs thousands of workmen in their construction and manning. It creates a home market for the products of the farm and the shop. It diminishes the balance of trade against us precisely to the extent of freights and passage-money paid to American vessels, and gives us a superiority upon the seas of inestimable value in case of foreign war. Our navy at the commencement of the late war consisted of less than 100 vessels, of about 150,000 tons, and a force of 8,000 men. We drew from the merchant marine, which had cost the Government nothing, but which had been a source of national wealth, 600 vessels, exceeding 1,000,000 tons, and about 70,000 men to aid in the suppression of the rebellion. This statement demonstrates the value of the merchant marine as a means of national defence in time of war. The Committee on the Cause of the Reduction of American Tonnage, after tracing the cause of its decline, submit two bills, which, if adopted, they will restore to the nation its maritime power. Their report shows with great minuteness the actual and comparative American tonnage at the time of its greatest prosperity, the actual and comparative decline since, together with the causes, and exhibits other statistics of material interest in reference to the subject. As the report is before Congress, I will not recapitulate any of its statistics, but refer only to the methods recommended by the Committee to give back to us our lost commerce. As a general rule it can be adopted. I believe a direct money subsidy is loss liable to abuse than indirect aid given to the same enterprise. In this case, however, my opinion is that subsidies, while they may be given to specific lines of steamers or other vessels, should not be exclusively adopted, but in addition to subsidising very desirable lines of ocean traffic, a general assistance should be given in an effective way, and therefore commend to your favourable consideration the two bills proposed by the Committee, and referred to in this message."

U. S. GRANT.  
Executive Mansion, Washington, March 23, 1870."

## C A F T L E S T A T I O N.

To Small Capitalists.—For SALE, within 30 miles of Brisbane, a Casting Station, with 1000 head cattle, on very easy terms. Further particulars apply to Mr. HENRY BEET, 6, Weymouth-street.

## AUCTION SALES.

Horse, heavy and light, Vehicles, Horsecars, and Saddlery.

GEORGE KISS will sell by auction, at the Bazaar, THIS DAY, at 11 o'clock.

Regular Sales at the Bazaar, daily; and at Camperdown, every afternoon.

GEORGE KISS is instructed to sell by auction, at the Bazaar, THIS DAY, at 11 o'clock.

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FUNERALS.

**PRINCE OF WALES' OPERA HOUSE.**  
Mr. CHARLES MATTHEWS.

The inimitable and world-renowned comedian will have the honour of appearing before the Sydney audience on **MONDAY, 2 JULY**, at 8 o'clock, in two of those most wonderful representations which have stamped him as one of the greatest living actors, **SIR CHARLES COLDSTREAM**, in the comedy of "USED UP," and **PATTER VERSUS CLATTER**.

**CAPTAIN PATTER.**

There will be no advance on the usual price of admission, notwithstanding the great attraction of Mr. Mathews' voice.

**DRY CIRCLE.** 6s. stalls, 3s. pit, 2s; upper circle, 1s.

**TO-MORROW.**—The dress circle subscriptions will close **TO-MORROW**, at 3 o'clock. Tickets of twenty-five lire per matinée, and available every evening during Mr. Mathews' engagement.

**EARLY CLOSING ASSOCIATION SCHOOL OF ARTS.**  
TO-MORROW, SATURDAY.

**LITERARY, MUSICAL, AND DRAMATIC ENTERTAINMENT.**

**PROGRAMME:**  
PART I.

Overture—Pianoforte. Mr. and Mrs. W. J. CORDNER.

Reading—Shakespearian.—"The Muses of King Duncan." Mr. HOSKINS and Miss FLORENCE COLVILLE, Grand Scene.—"O, Mi Fernando." Mrs. W. J. CORDNER.

Characteristic—Wax Figures versus Shakespear, "The Showman's Courtship." Antenous Ward.

Mr. H. N. DOUGLAS.

Song—"The Lover and the Bird." P. D. Guglielmo.

Recital—"Rock me to Sleep, Mother." Mr. HOSKINS.

Balado—"Quid by Chico?" Mrs. W. J. CORDNER.

Comics—Scenes—Cousin Maudie and Helen." Sheridan Knowles.

Miss FLORENCE COLVILLE and Mr. HOSKINS. Duet—"As it fell upon a day" Sir Henry Bishop.

Mr. W. J. CORDNER and Mrs. WILLIAM HOSKINS.

An interval of ten minutes.

**PROGRAMME:**  
PART SECOND.

The elegant Drawing-room Comedietta, by J. R. Thorne, Esq., called

**DE L'ÉTÉ E G R O U N D I** or, PARIS IN 1785.

Citizen Sangravid. Mr. H. N. Douglas.

Alphonse de Grandmari. Miss Florence Colville.

Pauline. Miss Florence Colville.

Admission—Reserved seats, 2s; unreserved, 1s. Doors open at 7, to commence at half-past 7.

**NO. 2 SCHOMBERG ORANGE LODGE.**—A TEA MEETING and SOIREE will be held in the Temperance Hall, Pitt-street, on **(THIS FRIDAY)** EVENING, 1st July, by St. Mark's Handbell Ringers, with their instruments, and DAVID BUCHIANAN, Esq., M.L.A., will address the meeting. The Deputy Grand Master will preside.

For full particulars see programme.

Tea on the table at half-past 6 o'clock.

Tickets, 1s. 6d. each.

**DRAPERY, HABERDASHERY, ETC.**

**DAVID JONES AND CO.** are showing, THIS MORNING, a very large parcel of BROCHÉ and PLAIN POPLINS, choice colours, NINE SHILLINGS and NINE PENCE the full dress; also, FRENCH REPS and SPINGLINES, new shades.

These form a part of a large colonial purchase, and are under the MANUFACTURERS' PRICES.

**DAVID JONES AND CO.** would suggest to Parents and Guardians an inspection of their UNLIMITED STOCK OF BOYS' AND GIRLS' CLOTHING,

in SUITS TO MATCH, and separate Garments.

The NEW GALATEA SUITS

for the Eton, Rugby, and Southampton SUITS

SUITS for School and Home Wear

SUITS for Dress and Holiday Use.

Every Garment for the Outfitting Department is now under their own superintendence, THOROUGHLY

SHRUNK.

A PERFECT FIT GUARANTEED.

**GREAT ASSIGNMENT** of

GENERAL DRAPERY, CLOTHING, &c.

THE ENTIRE STOCK TO BE SOLD,

EVERY ARTICLE REDUCED IN PRICE.

**GREAT BARGAINS!**

EXTRAORDINARY REDUCTIONS.

W. L. S. H. E. R. D.

678, GEORGE-STREET, and 654, BRICKFIELD-HILL, having purchased the entire Stock on an assigned Estate, having a value of £10,000, and clearing the whole, together with his own, at prices considerably below those ever quoted in Sydney for goods of the same quality, in order to effect a complete clearance.

The two Establishments will be closed on Friday, July 1st, for the purpose of re-marketing the Stock.

**SALE TO COMMENCE ON SATURDAY MORNING.**—The first instant, at 10 o'clock sharp.

The list of prices of a few articles mentioned will convey some slight idea of the Remarkably Low Prices at which every item is intended to be sold.

Ladies are most respectfully invited to inspect the goods.

REALLY GENUINE SALE.

**FANCY DRESS DEPARTMENT.**

Pantaloons, 1s. 6d. former price 9s.

Long sailor suit, 6s. 1d. former price 10s.

Chambray cloth, 5s. 6d. former price 10s.

Broadcloth, 1s. 6d. former price 10s.

Broadcloth, 1s. 6d. former price 10s.

Corded rep, 1s. 6d. former price 12s.

Silk-shoulder poplins, 1s. 6d. former price 10s.

Rent Aberdeen wincey, 5s. 6d. former price 10s.

Woolen wincey, 1s. 6d. former price 10s.

STUFFS.

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